

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

All of the pending claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated as (currently amended) or (cancelled). Please CANCEL claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please AMEND claims 2, 3 and 5 in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An acoustic signal processor ~~according to claim 1,~~  
comprising:

an input unit into which acoustic signals are input;

a detector detecting a frequency band having a highest energy level among frequency  
bands comprising the acoustic signals input into the input unit; and

a variable equalizer maintaining the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the  
input unit substantially at a constant level for frequency bands lower than the frequency band  
detected by the detector , and increasing the amplification degree of the energy level of the  
acoustic signals input into the input unit as the frequency increases for the frequency bands  
higher than the frequency band detected by the detector.

wherein the variable equalizer has a 6 db/octave high pass filter characteristic.

3. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An acoustic signal processor ~~according to claim 1,~~  
~~further comprising:~~

an input unit into which acoustic signals are input;

a detector detecting a frequency band having a highest energy level among frequency  
bands comprising the acoustic signals input into the input unit;

a variable equalizer maintaining the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the  
input unit substantially at a constant level for frequency bands lower than the frequency band  
detected by the detector , and increasing the amplification degree of the energy level of the  
acoustic signals input into the input unit as the frequency increases for the frequency bands  
higher than the frequency band detected by the detector; and

a delay circuit at an input side of the variable equalizer to provide a delay time,  
corresponding to a response delay time unique to the variable equalizer, to the input acoustic  
signals.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An acoustic signal processor ~~according to claim 1,~~  
comprising:

an input unit into which acoustic signals are input;

a detector detecting a frequency band having a highest energy level among frequency  
bands comprising the acoustic signals input into the input unit; and

a variable equalizer maintaining the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the  
input unit substantially at a constant level for frequency bands lower than the frequency band  
detected by the detector , and increasing the amplification degree of the energy level of the  
acoustic signals input into the input unit as the frequency increases for the frequency bands  
higher than the frequency band detected by the detector,

wherein a rise frequency of the variable equalizer shifts to a low frequency side as the  
energy level of the input acoustic signals decreases, and the rise frequency of the variable  
equalizer shifts to a high frequency side as the energy level of the input acoustic signals  
increases.

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The acoustic signal processor according to claim 3,  
wherein the response time of the variable equalizer is 5 msec or less when a high pass filter  
characteristic shifts to a high frequency side, and is 10 msec or less when the high pass filter  
characteristic shifts to a low frequency side.

8. (cancelled)